NexGen IT to Deliver Mission-focused Capabilities in 2012

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On Jan. 11, 2010, Maj Gen Timothy Byers, The Civil Engineer, approved the NexGen IT Program Management Plan, formalizing an ambitious, long-term program that will replace legacy systems including IWIMS and ACES and implement the latest commercial information technologies to better support civil engineers everywhere.

"The strength of our information technology is critical to our mission success," said Maj Gen Byers. "It must provide us with the reliable, up-to-date information we need to prioritize our projects, validate our funding requests, and support our Asset Management culture. We need to think and be more like Wal-Mart — delivering supplies and equipment to our Airmen when and where they need it," he said.

SrA Edgar DeNard, 316 CES, Andrews AFB, Md., uses a hand-held digital scanner to streamline acquisition of data related to HVAC maintenance. (photo by Ms. Katrina Tavanlar)

NexGen IT will be implemented in a series of six spirals, with initial efforts focused on providing an integrated work management capability that will include Real Property Management, Work Management, Supply Management, Energy Management, and Project Management.

"The approval of this plan is an important milestone that puts us on the right path toward an integrated IT and data solution that will better meet our operational and strategic priorities," Maj Gen Byers said, noting that the Civil Engineering community will begin to see new capabilities no later than 2012.

NexGen IT will deliver robust, mission-focused capabilities to help civil engineers work more efficiently, while providing the real-time data necessary to make important daily and strategic decisions.

- **No more redundant data entry.** NexGen IT will consolidate and integrate data and IT resources to provide greater "data transparency," which means computer systems will communicate with each other so data will only have to be entered once. For example, data entered by the Programs Flight can be seen by the Asset Management or Operations Flights or at the MAJCOM.

- **High-tech data collection.** NexGen IT will leverage high-tech devices for capturing and uploading information more efficiently, like hand-held scanners and digital pens used by shop craftsmen and engineer assistants to download information directly to the network.

- **Simplified data calls.** NexGen IT's integrated approach will also put real-time information in one user-friendly environment. This will simplify time-consuming data calls by the MAJCOM by putting critical information just a mouse click away versus spending hours and hours reconciling spreadsheets.

- **On-site supply orders.** With real-time supply information at their fingertips, personnel will be able to check for available parts, either from a laptop computer or hand-held device, and reserve and order them without ever leaving a job site.

- **Automated Real Property Installed Equipment requirements.** NexGen IT will automatically project Real Property Installed Equipment, or RPIE, and built infrastructure requirements based on the age of the equipment and facility, and program the required Recurring Work Program, or RWP, and projects in the appropriate program year for the Operations Flight.

- **Total cost information in one place.** NexGen IT will give personnel easy access to the up-to-date cost information that currently resides in separate or disconnected systems. For example, this will present energy, custodial, and waste removal costs in one user environment, providing a complete site picture that will support more informed decision making at all levels.

Over the past year, functional and technical experts from across the Civil Engineering community have worked together to identify current IT challenges and determine what new capabilities are needed to support you at the base and MAJCOM, and to support the mission. These insights will help ensure NexGen IT will effectively meet current and future requirements as the program moves forward.